

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 819  
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Susan Gratz upon her selection as West High School and Hamblen County Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gratz is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gratz has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year by her colleagues at West High School, an honor most befitting her outstanding 18-year tenure as a positive influence on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, in March, Director of Schools Dr. Dale Lynch surprised her with a bouquet of balloons and an additional honor, the title of Hamblen County Teacher of the Year for grades nine through twelve; and

WHEREAS, she will now compete on the regional level, and the regional winner to be announced later this month, will be eligible to become State Teacher of the Year, to be selected in October; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity as a computer science teacher at West High School, Susan Gratz has a prestigious educational background that includes an Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University, a Master of Science degree in Technology and Adult Education from the University of Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Science degree from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, currently teaching a wide range of computer science courses that includes information management systems, Internet navigation, desktop publishing, web page design,

and keyboarding applications; Susan Gratz is a former Hamblen County Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a previous winner of the Tennessee Geographic Teacher of the Year award, she recently received National Board Certification in business, marketing, information management, and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gratz is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, at West High School, Ms. Gratz won a Tech Prep Consortium grant for an integrated project with a creative writing and English class; her students, working with church elders, will produce a book of stories and pictures that relate the history of St. Paul Presbyterian Church, which celebrates its bicentennial this year; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gratz truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and active member of her community, Susan Gratz attends St. Paul Presbyterian Church, where she has served as the Sunday School Superintendent and as an assistant Sunday School Teacher; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Susan Gratz should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ms. Susan Gratz on being chosen as West High School and Hamblen County Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her luck and all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy